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#### Wild stories

Fenwick explorer Adam Shoalts, 29, tells of his journeys in Canada's uncharted Page 2

#### Hicks' homecoming

Country susperstar Tim Hicks comes home for a Friday show in Niagara Falls Page 29

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# **INPORTANEWS**

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#### Ingredion bought by Jungbunzlauer



METAMORE Shown is the Elm Street entrance to the plant in Port Colborne. See

story on page







\$299,900





# **UPFRONT**

■ ADAM SHOALTS: Fenwick 29-year-old is still exploring the world's faraway places

# The man against the wild

CHERYL CLOCK Postmedia Network

The sky was darkened with thick clouds of bloodthirsty bugs, their bigh-pitched whine unrelenting to the point of madness. The mesh net he wore over his head offered as much protection as an umbrella in a torrential

He was cold to the bone. soaking wet and exhausted from pulling his canoe over endless expanses of bog-like terrain in remote parts of northem Canada or through frigid waters when a stream was too shallow or rocky to paddle.

He had just two sets of clothes. A dry set to wear around camp at night and a wet set to be worn all the other times. Each morning before he set off on the next leg of his wilderness journey, he pulled on his still-wet clothing from the day before

At the start of his trip, he sliced his thumb launching his canoe. The ensuing infection that was causing it to throb had progressed to the colour green.

And be was alone Alone in polar bear territory, somewhere in the low-

lands of Hudson Bay. Indeed, the place Adam Shoalts had always dreamed of exploring.

The 29-year-old from Fenwick was on an expedition to find and explore a river that hadn't yet been named or otherwise chronicled, in the depths of northern Canadian

wilderness

He originally set out with a friend because the risk of going it alone was too great. But partway through the trip, his friend bailed. Shoalts offers an interpretation: "He thought exploring was more glamorous to read about than

actually do." They used a satellite phone to summon a float plane. And on Day 11 of the 23-day expedition, Shoalts stood alone on a riverbank surrounded by miles of treeless tundra, and watched the plane disappear

into the overcast sky. I was pretty nervous and a little alarmed," he says, Sure, he had done other expeditions and been on his share of solo canne trins into places like Algonquin Park. But this was different. Even

the local guides warned about the dangers of travelling alone through polar bear territory. But Shoalts had a lot riding on this trip. It was the first time one of

his expeditions was being funded by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. And he couldn't anit

"I really had no choice but to stay behind," he says. "Failure wasn't an option. I'd put so much on the line just to get there in the first place." And so began his first solo expedition that would become the catalyst for future, solitary

Shoalts tells the stories of this and other wilderness adventures in his most recent book. Alone Against the North: An Expedition into the Unknown (Penguin Random

His narrative is both humorous and honest, and at times intensely gripping, as he details his obsession with exploring the river he would later name Little Owl. and another called the Again, in the Hudson Bay Lowlands, No nerson had ever documented

either waterway. During the expeditions, he endures the physical bardship of hauling both canoe and gear across rugged landscapes and the mental burden

of doing it alone. And yet, always the concommute frontiereman he always seems to maintain perspective on adversity and

danger. Indeed, ever since he was boy growing up in Fenwick. he's felt he belonged in the woods. His playground was the 200-plus acres of deciduous woodland next to his house. And he would look at maps on the backs of cereal boxes, and imagine the adven-

tures be would find in distant "There's just something so mysterious about a place on a map that you don't know,"

He devoured books on wilderness survival, folklore and outdoor skills. His heroes are early explorers, and he felt a personal connection to the

hardships they endured in their quest to explore faraway comers of the world. "Historical analogy helps to keep things in perspective, he says, "I would tell myself, in comparison to Hugh Glass.



Adam Shoalts, 29, from Ferwick has written a book, Alone Against the North, about his adventures exploring remote parts of northern Ontario. He is pictured in one of his favourite, local hiking spots, Short Hills Provincial Park

the mountain man who got mauled by a grizzly and left for dead, this is not that bad at

In 2012, Shoalts set out for his third attempt at finding, then exploring, the Again River, a watercourse that crisscrosses the northern boundary

of Ontario and Quebec. The river itself spans some 107 kilometres, but the journey to actually find it covered several hundred, and was the most difficult part of the trip. For days Shoalts trailblazed though seemingly impenetrable woods, then doubled back to baul his canoe and gear over

the primitive route Yet perhaps one of the most harrowing moments hapnened on the Again River, following a sleepless night in a tent on a slab of granite in the middle of a lightning storm. He was enjoying a relatively easy paddle when he noticed ahead a sharp bend in the

river, and a drop — read possible waterfall "Even when I first see the drop, I'm not that alarmed

because it doesn't look that big," he says.

So be canned over it. He dropped 1.5 metres, unexnected but certainly not extreme for a seasoned canoeist. And although the canoe flooded, it was still buoyant and he kept paddling.

Then came the second drop 4.5 metres. He was flung out of the

"The next thing I know, I'm under water," he says, Caught in a deep pool of water just below where the waterfall is pounding down, he remains submerged, even with a life-jacket.

Eventually, his head popped above the surface of the water. only to catch a glimpse of his gear floating down the river. He swam to shore, then jumped from houlder to boulder downstream to rescue his watertight barrel. backpack and both his paddles. The cance had come to rest in a calm eddy, with a caved-in hull and split gunwales. Yet, with some in-the-

#### THE **ADVENTURES** OF ADAM

What: Author and

p.m.

adventurer Adam Shoalts will talk about his new book. Alone Against the North. He'll share some pictures from his adventures and have copies of his books available for sale. Wher: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7

Where: St. Catharines library.

To learn more about Arlam Shoalts, visit his website at adamshoalts.com

field repairs, it was still functional The greatest tragedy was the

ss of his favourite fedora and fishing rod to a watery fate. But he lived to tell the tale Indeed, days later, he celebrated his success reaching the end of the river with some quiet satisfaction and a cup of tea, his one backwoods lux-

ury, carefully packed into his waterproof bags And while this part of his journey ended for so he thought), it was incentive for many more expeditions still to

\*The age of exploration is not over," he says. "The reality is, we don't know the world half as well as we think we do. \*It's something that goes deep into the human psyche, to want to know about faraway places, or the allure of the

unknown," he says, "I do it because I can't help it. It's irresistible."

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DEC 3





















# The real cost of living

#### Postmedia Network

The distinct tingle of keys brought tears to Sandy Gero's

It's a noise the 66-year-old Niagara Falls woman had been waiting seven years to hear, and in the moment, she was overcome by emotion.

When she first applied in 2008 to find a new home through Niagara Regional Housing, she did so with her grown son James by her side. But his death in Jannary meant she would have to move forward without him. She applied this summer to

instead be added to the list for single-bedroom apartments and in September received the good news she so desperately boned to bear

Between July and September, Niagara Regional Housing was able to find homes for 51 families and individuals. Gern included. In those same months, however, the organization received 202 new applica-

tions for assistance. Sitting in her quaint Portage Road apartment brightly decorated for the holidays. Gero's thoughts travelled to the more than 4,700 applicants still await-

She knows all too well the anxiety that comes as the calendar pages turn and the phone remains silent.

As the years passed, Gero chose to find comfort in know. ing the available spaces were being filled by others in greater

need in the community. "It made the wait easier to know others were being helped, she said, adding she had faith her time would someday come.

At that point, she had been spending about half of her monthly income, then from Ontario Disability Support Program, on rent alone. But she had a roof over her

head and she was thankful. When Gero finally received the call and was invited to sign a

lease, she was overioved. "It's the best feeling in the world," she said, adding her stresses over affording necessities have since begun to sub-

"There are honest people out there who are really struggling. They need that assistance. It helps so much,"

Through Niagara Regional Housing's rent-geared-toincome programming, as well as partnerships with local co-ops, not-for-profits and private landlords, tenants in affordable units contribute 30 per cent of their monthly household income toward rent.

NRH funds the difference to reach market cost. The organization's \$53.8-mil-

lion budget, as of 2015, includes about \$27 million from Niagara Region, with the remainder covered by a mix of federal and provincial funding and rent reve-

nue. While the goal is to help all Niagarans in need of safe and affordable housing, NRH is faced with a number of challenges, chief executive officer

Ellen Balmain said. There's an added level of difficulty, she said, because unlike social assistance, not everyone who is eligible is immediately hotslese

'The challenge for us is that we have people who qualify but only limited resources to go around. That's why it's so important that we ensure the resources we have are used appropriately."

To help address the growing wait-list, eviction notices were

served beginning in August to tenants living in affordable housing but paying market rent. Under the Housing Services Act, tenants who become ineligible for rent-geared-toincome living can stay and pay maximum rent but only for 12

months. This rule had not previously been enforced by NRH. The organization mailed out 169 letters to affected tenants. explaining why they cease to

qualify for their units. Since that time, 30 have already moved or given notice they intend to move, 74 have requalified for affordable housing and 65 have their outcome pending as NRH awaits additional information to determine eligibility.

"Two families received keys (Tuesday) for units that were vacated as part of this process. Balmain said, calling it a difficult but necessary step for the agency to take.

Through review of its protocols, development of new units and the fostering of relationships with private landlords across Niagara, NRH staff are working to reduce the waiting list. Balmain said, But demand remains high.

While the system for selecting households from the list is based primarily on the date an application was submitted, there are many variables that impact how long someone might have to wait for housing. But first they must make the

waiting list.

When applications are become available, Balmain received by NRH, they undergo said. a vetting process to ensure the applicant is eligible.

Total household income is reviewed to determine whether it exceeds the financial thresh-

olds put in place by the government annually, Balmain said. "They tell us what the maximum household limit is, as well

as the limit for high need." High-need applicants, who receive special consideration on the wait-list, typically contribute more than half of their monthly income toward rent, she said. Priority is also given to people

who find their safety at immediate risk, including victims of violence fleeing abuse. When income falls within the limits and other eligibility requirements are met, the applicant is added to the wait-

ing list for the properties they've expressed interest in. Once on the list, applications are reviewed annually to reaf-

firm eligibility and need. "We do cull the list. It's a continuous process" Balmain said. adding the numbers are always fluctuating.

"Every month, we're housing people on and off." NRH maintains its own hous-

ing units while also working closely with co-ops, not-forprofits and units owned by privote landlonde In total, it oversees 2,738 units

across Niagara. In addition to reviewing tenants - who are required to report any income or occupancy changes - NRH must monitor its agreements with private landlords and co-ops to ensure protocol is being followed and the wait-list consulted as units

"The government created a

centralized list to ensure fairness," she said, but it's NRH's responsibility to ensure that list is being adhered to.

lengthy, all is not lost for those in need waiting for an affordable place to call home. Through its Housing Allow-

ance program, NRH helps those "experiencing deep need" with more than half of their income going toward rent - by subsidizing a set portion of their market rent housing costs in their existing home. Through the program, peo-

ple are given a "boost," as Balmain calls it, to help them get by until an affordable housing unit becomes available. NRH also offers a referral-

based Housing First program in partnership with community agencies to address clients who face chronic homelessness

"They could be classified as hard to house," Balmain said, adding many of those tenants are facing serious challenges of addictions or mental health

Those issues can be increasingly difficult to address without first having stable housing in place, she said "We provide the funding

and the agencies provide sup port toward having successful tenancy, Once they're housed. we work to break that cycle of

NRH is also there to aid land-If there is damage to a unit or concerns regarding a tenant, landlords need to have a source for support, Balmain said.

homelessness'

he Canadian citizens permanent residents of Canada or refugee claimants

the household must be at While the wait may seem least 16 years of age. Applicants must be able to live independently, with

or without support services. There must not be any money owing, by any member of the household. to any affordable housing provider, under any government-assisted

NIAGARA

REGIONAL HOUSING ELIGIBILITY Applicants and members

of the household must

At least one member of

housing program. If the applicant is a homeowner, they must agree in writing to sell their property within 180 days of receiving rent-geared-toincome assistance. No member of the household can be under an

enforceable removal order under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. There must be no member of the household who has been convicted of misrepresenting their income within the past two years for the purpose of rent-geared-to-income

accidance

It's important for the housing organization to nurture those relationships to ensure successful partnerships continue in the future and those units remain available Of its 2,738 units, NRH had

just two evictions between July and September, she said. maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

# **Drawing near to God**

Wainfleet Congregational Christian Church

very Christian and othderwise know the longing, the loneliness and the absence of God in their lives. The former may have unconfessed sin in their hearts or God may retract His loving presence that they would learn more deep to walk by faith and not by sight. The latter experienced this longing and loneliness because God is literally absent from their lives. So they in turn try to fill this emptiness, this void, this restlessness by temporary and harmful things that will not ultimately satisfy or fulfill them. They were not

True deep seeded fulfilment can only result when people are restored and united to God through Christ. Have you ever noticed that

designed to

the best things and the greatest experiences in life are at best short lived? Only Christ the living water can quench the thirsting of your soul.

The Lord said in Jeremiah 2:13 "For my people have committed two evils, they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water." These cisterns were dug into the ground and were used to store rainwater - water which is essential to life. Multiply that fact by infinity-Christ alone will fill you to overflowing to such an extent that you cannot contain the good news of His abundance and are compelled to share His love with others, Jesus told the women of Samaria "everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never

lesser to the greater. The physical water found in a well to the living water found in

If the Lord fulfills all of our needs telling the women of Samaria that in drinking from Him she will never thirst again, then why does David a man after God's own heart say in Psalm 63:1 "Oh God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you." This seeming paradox is easily resolved. The Samaritan women like every

one else only has to come to Christ once for salvation. Regarding David who was already a believer. He continues to seek and to thirst after God-this is sanctification. The Lord. The Hound of Heaven. pursues and seeks the lost. They in turn seek more of Him as they grow in the faith, become more progressively sanctified in holiness which is shorthand for Christ

claims based upon His name which includes His titles and

His attributes These attributes are the qualities, the characteristics, the very essence of God. In short, that which makes God God. There is always a mystery here for the finite cannot fully comprehend the Infinite, But studying God (theology) should lead to doxology (praise) otherwise it

is fruitless. Truth comes to the heart via the head. This content is logic which fires the heart. or as Doctor Martyn Lloyd Jones said, "Preaching is logic on fire." God's name given to Moses I am who I am. What does that mean? This speaks of God's self sufficienc His self-existence and His eternality. God has no needs,

He depends upon no one for anything. And He is eternal. He has no origins, There was never a time in which He was not. He is the everlasting God as is Christ who is also called the alpha and the

omega, the beginning and the end. Because the Lord is eternal. He is also unchangeable (immutable) knowing the end from the beginning. He can learn nothing new. If you are a Christian He cannot love you less or more based upon

your performance. God will not change His mind and love you less in the future, and that is why you can draw near to God now daily. God knows you, He loves you and He wants you to receive Him through His son, Christ, the only Saviour. If you confess your sins to Christ, He will cast them into the sea of forgetfulness to be remembered no more. Can you trust God? He is faithful and He will never break His promises. Does He knowyour heart? He knows everyone's heart even better than they think they do. He is omniscient (all knowing).

Can God save you in Christ and bring you all the way home in Glory some day? Why not, he is omnipotent (all powerful). He is also sovereign. "His dominion is an everlasting dominion." He is Lord of all.

Is He Lord of your life? He is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance

We must add two more of His attributes together and they are God's holiness and His wrath. God is pure and perfectly without sin-sinners must be cleansed by Christ or they will face God's wrath. He is merciful but He is also just.

Christians draw near to God and see a small for shadowing of the glory of the malestic Kings of Kings Unbelievers upon confession of their sins and the receiving of God's grace draw near as they drink fully and freely from the living water who Christ is.

The Lord is near to those who call on Him" (Psalm 145:18). Are you far from God? Guess who moved?

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INPORT NEWS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2015

welland.tribune@sunmedia.ca POSTMEDIA John Tobon, Group Advertising Director Peter Conradi, Managing Editor

# Shipwrecks — Rochambeau

#### SKIP GILLHAM For Postmedia Network

ochambeau was a French-built and French-owned freighter that dated from 1967. It was completed at Le Trait, France, in August 1967 and equipped to handle refrigerated as well general cargo.

The 152.81-metre-long Rochambeau came to the Great Lakes for the first time in 1970 but usually operated on saltwater routes. It was sold and rebuilt as a liveresumed trading under the flag of Italy as Siba Queen.

It moved under Panamanian registry as El Borrego in 1988 and retained that flag on becoming Al Rayyan I in 1989.

Trouble developed on the Arabian Sea during a voyage from Fujairah, Trucial States, to Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the ship had to be abandoned by the crew on June 9, 1994. They got off safely but their vessel sank to the bottom of the sea.

ive usu something to



Rochambeau is shown in Montreal in April 1970 in this Harry Stott photo courtesy of Rene Beauchamp.

Norbert Gieger DD

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#### COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

#### United Way campaign breaks \$100,000 mark

#### GREG FURMINGER

Two months in to United Way of South Niagara's \$650,000 fundraising campaign. total donations are breaking into the six-

"We are at just about \$100,000 right now," Tamara Coleman-Lawrie, the organization's executive director, says. "We're in line with some of our projec-

tions Numbers typically escalate toward the end of the fundraising period when workplace campaigns start reporting their sums. Some campaigns. Coleman-Lawrie says, have started a little later than normal

this year. A recent United Way Auction for Action at Seaway Mall raised just more than

\$10,000, she says

2016 funding.

Donors can expect other fundraisers to come, but not the once-popular Jail and Bail event which was dropped a number of years ago. Coleman-Lawrie suggests people mark Friday, Feb. 26, on their calendars as day of a big United Way dodgehall tournament, for which details will be

announced later It's about that time that the campaign, which years ago used to conclude much

earlier, will be wrapping up. Non-profit agencies in Welland, Port Colborne, Pelham and Wainfleet, and surrounding areas, that have come to rely on the generosity of United Way donors have been recently notified that it is time for them to start making submissions for

Coleman-Lawrie says she's anticipating requests totalling about \$900,000 to \$1

million - far more than the United Way campaign goal that matches last year's

\$650,000 figure. \*Unfortunately, (the goal) has been set by the predicted resources we can get. she says while remarking about the million-dollar-plus targets reached a decade or so ago, when Welland and area indus-

try was thriving and workplace campaigns at plants that hadn't shut down provided a huge chunk of change to the United Way. "It's a shame." Coleman-Lawrie says,

because we know the need for funding basn't been cut in half Among beneficiaries of funds last

raised through the local United Way are Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara, Autism Ontario's Niagara chapter, Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre, Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet, Epilepsy Niagara, Port Cares, Family Counselling Centre Niagara, Strive Niagara, Hope Centre and Women's Place of South Nia-

At United Way's Welland office a staff complement of just two and a half people are working hard on behalf of the agencies that need help, she says, adding there's some misconception that the local United Way is "a huge conglomerate" that can breeze through fundraising efforts.

Donors are the people who make a difference, she says. John and Rebecca Clark, owners of M.T. Bellies and Riverstone Event Centre, for

their third year will match donations by new donors up to a total \$20,000. Tuesday was the Clark family's eighth annual It's A Wonderful Life event in sup-

port of the campaign. All of the a branch of National Bank, is \$150 tickets for the fundraiser at Riverstone that includes a sevencourse meal prepared by chef Roland Gaspar plus entertainment were sold.

Milan Plentai, senior investment adviser at Plentai-Lewis Wealth Management Group, matching up to a total \$20,000 donations by new business leaders who contribute \$1,000 or more, or past leaders who up their antes by at least 10 per cent. Coleman-Lawrie says.

People who want to donate are encouraged to stop by the United

Way's Seaway Mall office. We're here on the second floor," Coleman-Lawrie says, "People can slide their envelope under the door if they don't want to leave it in the mailbox

People can also donate by going to www.unitedwaysouthniagara. ca or calling 905-735-0490.





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# **LOCALNEWS**

INDUSTRY

# Port plant purchases neighbour



An Ingredion tanker truck leaves the Port Colborne corn syrup products plant which is being purchased by neighbouring industry

#### Postmedia Network

Port Colborne's Carbohydrate

Valley is losing one of its biggest In a deal expected to close mid-December, the Jungbunzlauer

citric acid plant on Elm Street has purchased the neighbouring Ingredion facility that has been its prime glucose supplier since it set up shop in 2002. Lee DiMascio, vice-president of operations for lungbunglauer

called it "kind of a good and bad news story He said Jungbunzlauer was approached by Ingredion about

TERRA TRAC AT

LIGHT TRUCK PREMIUM

a year and a half ago to buy its Invertose Drive plant.

Not doing so would have left Jungbunzlauer to look elsewhere for its supplies if Ingredion closed its Port Colborne operations - and it could have meant the loss of several jobs, DiMascio said

But of just more than 60 Ingredion workers, about 40 have been hired by Jungbunzlauer to keep operations running on Invertose Drive.

A few others found employment elsewhere with Ingredion, he said, while others were put out of work. Combined, the expanded Jungbun-

zlauer operation will employ about 115 The Ingredion plant is being downsized to meet the supply needs of Jung-

bunzlauer, which is owned by a Switzerland-based cornoration that will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2017. The corn wet-milling plant which had been operated by Ingredion - it breaks

the vegetable down into components including glucose, germ for corn oil and feed meal for livestock farms - will no longer be producing high fructose corn syrup, as it had done for so many years under its former name, Casco, which changed in 2012. It was the Casco plant, plus the availa

ble neighbouring land on the bank of the Welland Canal, the accessibility to water needed for cooling and proximity to the U.S., that led Jungbunzlauer to set up its only plant outside of Europe.

Jungbunzlauer - JBL as it is known commonly in the community - started production in 2002, with a direct supply line connecting from the Ingredion

plant. "Our supply chain will become fully integrated with the acquisition of the Ingredion plant, which will be dedicated to glucose production for fermentation purposes," Tom Knutzen, CEO of Switzerland-based lungbunzlauer, said in a release "This will further strengthen our

efficiency and enhance our competitive "We achieve sustainability by combining state-of-the-art processes and manufacturing technology while locating close to the main inputs, such a corn, energy and water. The acquisition of the Ingredion facility documents our commitment to both the region and our strat-

egy to build competitiveness through a leading sustainability position," Knutzen In the same release, Ingredion executive vice president and president of Ingredion North America Jim Zallie said, "Ingredion is committed to an ongoing continuous improvement effort to optimize our network to control our fixed costs and ensure the most efficient use of our resources. This is one step to balance supply based on our customers' needs

as we focus on the growth of our highervalue specialty ingredient portfolio. The two facilities in Port Colborne became affectionately referred to as the his players in Port Colborne's Carbobydrate Valley, a marketing name hoped to have other related industries

Glucose produced at the Ingredion plant is used in Jungbunzlauer's fermenting process to create citric acid, most commonly used by the beverage industry, but also used in foods, cosmet ics, pharmaceuticals, cleaning products and detergents.

The Port Colborne plant is a main supplier of the ingredient for use across North and South America

The transaction involving privately owned Jungbunzlauer and publicly traded company Ingredion, which also has plants in London and outside of Ottawa, expected to close on Dec. 15. DiMascio said a purchase price is not

Founded in 1867, Junebunzlauer specializes in citric acid, xanthan gum, gluconates, lactics, special salts and sweeteners for the food, beverage, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry as well as for various other industrial applications It operates manufacturing plants also in Austria, France and Germany.



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#### Weak dollar brightens Canadian Black Friday

Postmedia Network

A devalued loonie may help buck a crossborder shopping habit this holiday season. And that's good news for Canadian border retailers who were readying for another Black

Priday kickoff to the annual spending blitz. "It's going to be significant," said loanne Ross, general manager of the Outlet Collection at Niagara, which is heading into its second Black Friday since opening last year. As the value of the Canadian dollar contin-

ues its plunge, more Canucks are expected to spend their dollars domestically. And the Outlet Collection in Niagara-onthe-Lake is gearing up for beefed up cus-

tomer-parking assistance and doubling up on security. "With the Canadian dollar the way it is

now, we're anticipating to see our traffic and sales increase even more," Ross said. "So our retailers are stocking up, gearing up and staffing appropriately.
"We think it's going to be an excellent day."

Black Friday — tomorrow — is traditionally the first Friday that follows the American

But in recent years. Canadian retailers adopted it, with sales held at the same time to counter cross-border shopping deals in

It leads into Cyber Monday, when online retailers mark down popular items such as

electronics, clothes and books A trend bas also been to extend the sales blitz over several days or even a week.

At The Pen Centre a Black Friday event again takes place from today to Sunday. "It's certainly an established sale Pen Centre shoppers have come to expect," said mall

marketing director Rick Woodward. The centre started the event four year ago with a Thursday launch "for a specific rea-

"And that was to try and capture some of those Canadian dollars before they decided to head across the river," Woodward said. Meanwhile, "the pendulum has swung a little bit, now the dollar is worth about 75 cents (on the American dollar)," he said.

"We've seen steady increases in our sales at the shopping centre over the last six months, with sales up on average about 14 to 16 per "It's very significant," Woodward said, adding a year ago, a new Outlet Collection mail

dress in curious "tim-kickers interested in vie. iting, checking out and shopping there." "But we've seen those shoppers return."

he said. "And there's been a strong Canadians are still not far behind, increase in sales, which can be attributed to the lower Canadian dollar." As for overall shopping trends in Canada marketers aren't quite sure how it will play out this year.

SAS, an analytics research company, said its polling research shows Canadians shoppers plan to buy less this holiday season than last year. In a release, the company said Canadians are also planning to shop "around the holiday discount cycle

buying gifts when the best deals are It said while Black Friday and Cyber Monday rule the roost in American boliday shopping patterns, with nearly a quarter surveyed saying they're likely to shop on Black Friday and 17 per cent on Oyber Monday. Accenture, a global services com-pany paints a slightly different pic-

ture in its report. It says 34 per cent of Canadian

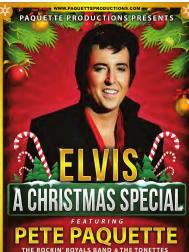
consumers plan to spend more on holiday shopping than last year, a rise of 13 per cent from Accenture's last survey That also indicates a drop in

cross-border shopping with only 27 per cent saying they'd travel south of the border to shop, compared to 24 per cent per cent last year, Almost a third of shoppers polled cited the

weak dollar as their reason for st ing put. Michael LeBlanc, senior vice-president of the Retail Council of Canada, said the Canadian dollar is having a definite impact on setting cross-border traffic, and notes online sales are an important part of the sales mix

> LeBlanc said Canadians have traditionally shopped across the border for reasons of better assortment and

"It's fair to say that over time, both of those are being addressed," he said, pointing to a robust mega-mall presence in Niagara as one exam-



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#### GOVERNMENT

#### Region looks ahead 25 years to predict Niagara's growth

#### Regional council has endorsed a report that, if approved by the province,

will see updated Ontario population and

employment forecasts used to plan for

The new forecast includes an addi-

tional 168,000 people not included in

forecasts following changes to Ontario's

growth plan. As a result, the Region is

undertaking a municipal comprehensive review, transportation master servicing plan, and water and wastewater master

servicing plan as part of the Niagara 2041

That projected population increase means the Region, through the compre-

hensive review, can 'now allocate to the

areas and communities that are looking

to grow beyond the current boundary

limits," said planning and development

services commissioner Rino Mostacci.

made a submission to expand its urban

at potential growth along Stone Road and

\*There are others across the region that

This additional quantum allows us

to address that without undermining or

in the Niagara on the Green area.

we're aware of," he said.

The Town of Grimsby, for instance, has

Niagara is required to update its growth

Niagara's most recent 2031 growth plan.

the future.

Growth Strategy.

Niagara Region is looking ahead to

urban designated land in the other communities? The review will include public consul-

tation and municipal engagement. When regional staff meet with local municipalities, clarity is key, Port Colborne regional councillor David Barrick

"There's a sense that some local communities will be missing out or losing out on something and that just isn't the case," he said. "Enhancing the level of available properties for development across the entire region is good for the entire

region."
"We will be crystal clear," Mostacci "We want to see every corner of the

region grow," he said, adding each community deserves the "opportunity to grow and prosper Mostacci feels there is a "sense of anxi-

ety" at the municipal level, due in part to when a municipal comprehensive review was last conducted as part of the process for the 2031 strategy. At that time, some communities were

looking for additional urban land. "We were unable to accommodate area and Niagara-on-the-Lake is looking that because we didn't have the quantum of growth allocated by the province," Mostacci said.

"What's happening with 2041 is we're nlocking that. It's unlocking that gridlock and we now have a quantum we can distribute accordingly."











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Family Owned and Home Grown

### Online program tracks Niagara's progress

Postmedia Network The public can now keep a watchful eye on Niagara

Region's progress from the comfort of home. An online economic prosperity dashboard was launched that tracks Niagara's status, as well as its targets, in a number of sectors including community well-

being, employment growth. infrastructure, investment and taxation. \*We wanted to convey to the public exactly what we're

doing and how we're doing on six significant measures we feel are important to our community," Regional Chairman Alan Caslin said recently. The innovative project

was introduced to councillors last month. Each of the six categories is broken down further

into a number of factors that indicate whether Niagara is improving, remaining static or worsening. Under community, for the area's Ontario Works caseload, median household income and affordable housing waiting list, among others.

Each includes current Niagara data, as well as a target council is striving to reach by a set date.

Also listed are regional, provincial and federal projects that impact those various components. "We've been working on

factors that influence the dials we have in front of us to try to improve those," Caslin said

"The only way we can really gain some focus is if we have those measures in front of us and can use them to guide what we do."

Much of the data available on the dashboard is provided from regularly undated provincial statistics and external sources. though some comes directly from regional departments.

It's updated as it becomes available to regional staff, to give users a real-time view of

given time, Caslin said. "This is not something that's static. It's very dynamic" be said

In addition to continuously changing data, the categories being monitored might also be modified as time goes on.

"If we find we've achieved a goal and it's time to adopt another, we'll change that as necessary to make sure we're focused on the right things." Council wanted to ensure the project was "totally transparent," said Cas-

lin, who encouraged people to "dig into the data" of the information-rich dash-"It's important for taxpayers to understand where their dollars are being spent in a transparent way and

what exactly the results are of the efforts of the regional government, what our achievements are and how they're changing. "Sometimes the data can

be cruel," Caslin said, adding in some cases Niagara has

#### Community Symptoms

LOOK IT UP

sized communities see 20

behind where they are," he

said, but "we're doing our

Having those targets out in

"It definitely keeps us

front at all times is expected

to help meet those marks, he

focused. There are distrac-

tors in our lives and having

this as our priority keeps us

focused on what's important

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @mfirthStandard

in Niagara."

"We're significantly

per cent growth, he said.

best to change that."

The dashboard is

available online at www

Social services and health programs have a direct link to economic prosperity in Nagara. The following data measures community well-being.



O Officers 25% 25%

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29%

Niagara Region recently launched an online economic prosperity dashboard to monitor its performance and outline its targets moving forward in a number of sectors.





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#### CHARITY: Niagara Health System's OneFoundation presents Moustache Mania

#### Do vou have a mo to gro tate diagnostic assessment pro-

#### ALISON LANGLEY

Postmerlia Network While it's not quite a Fu Man-

chu or a handlebar, the sparse sprinkling of hair above Dr. Ian Brown's upper lip does have a "I'm looking at growing

something a bit conservative the urologist said of his 'stachein-progress during a visit last Friday to Mario's Family Hairstyling in Niagara Falls for a

tidy, albeit, brief trim. His barber, Mario Devilliers, "In the facial hair depart-

ment, he has a little more growing to do." Brown, the lead urologist for Nlagara Health System's pros-

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made out to Santa's Helpers

Arrest made in alleged

A man has been arrested

sexual assault of a

minor

to the treasurer, Lynne

Port Colborne, L3K 3G9.

Living in Port Colborne.

Port Colborne,

vouchers. Donations can be

Helpers Depot at Community

an independent non-

gram, has been growing his moustache since Nov. 1 to raise funds and awareness for local prostate care During the month of Novem-

Moustache Mania To pledge a participant, visit OneFoundationforNHS. com or call 905-323

FUND(3863). Don't have a mo to grow? You can still participate and raise funds by wearing a moustache pin - available from OneFoundation - wearing a sticker moustache or pledging to grow your leg hair.

following investigation into an alleged sexual assault of a minor at a Port Colborne

Gary Jarram Sr. was arrested and charged with

sexual assault, sexual interference, invitation

to sexual touching and expose genitals to person

He was scheduled to appear for a bail hearing

with information to call

Det. Const. Mike Delano at

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under the age of 16.

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those cities.

crystal meth

A 28-year-old man

who police say has been

Port Colborne has been

of crystal meth in both

arrested for alleged sales

Last Wednesday, as a

result of an investigation

started this fall, Niagara

Regional Police made

an arrest. During the

investigation officers

seized \$540 worth

\$110 in cash

of suspected crystal

with possession of a controlled substance for

methamphetamine and

Jason White is charged

the purpose of trafficking

living in Welland and

home The Niagara Regional Police child abuse unit started looking onto the matter last Wednesday.

her the NHS OneFoundation is encouraging people to participate in its Moustache Mania campaign to help support the needs of the local assessment

Brown is one of 11 people

All funds raised from the ini-

are participating in Moustache Mania and organizers hope to raise \$20,000.

out, the wait time to see a urol-

Catharines.

Family Cancer Centre in St. To date, 694 patients have visited the clinic and 227 have been diagnosed with prostate concor

tiative, which continues until

The prostate diagnostic

assessment program opened in

September 2014 at the Walker

Nov. 30, will stay in Niagara.

The clinic was the first of its kind in Niagara and is designed to improve the quality of care and reduce wait times for men with suspected prostate cancer. "Before the program started ogist for a routine consultation was three months, plus or minus" Brown sold "Now, men can be assessed in about two weeks" If a biopsy is required,

weeks after assessment.

wait times," Brown said.

ward in terms of shortening

a team of multidisciplinary

experts, including a urologist

and radiation technologist.

meet to discuss options and

come up with recommenda-

If the biopsy is positive,

Plans are underway to expand the program to include creating a surveillance database

for men with prostate cancer patients can have the procewho are candidates for monidure done approximately two toring rather than treatment. A patient database will allow That is also a big step for-

care providers to be sure each patient stays on their schedule of followup guidelines and is cognizant of any changes so that they can notify their physicians immediately. "We don't want anyone to

tions for the most appropriate

fall through the cracks," Brown cold





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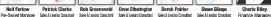








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# **LOCALNEWS**

■ EDUCATION: Port Colborne student serving as legislative page

# th-grader working at Queen's Park

#### FRANKI IKEMAN Postmedia Network

A grade eight student from Port Colborne is spending four weeks at Queen's Park

in Toronto Benjamin Shoalts, a student at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School, was selected to serve as a legislative page at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario where he will deliver messages and water to MPPs in the Chamber as well as meet parliamentary figures and learn about the provincial government

Shoalts said he was interested after hearing about the good experience his cousin had in the program a few years ago. He began to pay more attention about the happenings in government and decided to apply. He applied in the fall of 2014 when he was excepted but deferred his spot due to

scheduling conflicts.
He said the house sits Mondays and Thursdays and Fridays will be spent going on field trips. Shoalts said he's most looking forward to meeting

the members of provincial parliament. "I'm looking forward to meeting the premier and the leaders of the party, because we get to ask them questions and I'm really looking forward to talking to them, Shoalts said, "I also get to meet and bave lunch with

my MPP, Cindy Forster."

The application to

become a legislative page is no easy task. Students submit an application including an essay outlining their accomplishments and suitability for the program and must hold an academic average of 80 per cent or higher. The students then have to study and learn the

faces, names and locations of the 107 MPPs before their first day on the job. St. Patrick school principal Kim Kucbar said she's proud to see one of ber student's selected for the

opportunity. I'm very proud of Benjamin for being selected, he's definitely a worthy candidate to be considered for this position," Kuchar said. She added that Shoalts



Grade 8 student Benjamin Shoalts at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School will serve as a page at Queen's Park.

is actively involved in the school community, includthe student senate for the

elementary school panel. "He's very involved and ing a position as chair on he's also helped us to form our own student council this year, he took that initiative on," she said.

For Shoalts, who can easily list the most pressing issues faced by the province, it's important for kids to be interested and involved in politics.

"Right now in a lot of elections sometimes adults don't really vote because they don't see it as important. But if students are interested now and they start learning about it they'll find it more interesting and they'll realize that it is important to vote and they'll be able to understand what's happening in our country and in our province," he said.

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#### HOCKEY

### SeaWorld plan has no impact on Marineland

#### TONY RICCIUTO

Postmedia Network Plans by SeaWorld in California to end its killer whale shows next year will have no impact on how Marine-

land conducts its operation That's because it does not have killer whale shows, according to a statement released by the Niagara Dalle attraction

SeaWorld announced it plans to replace its killer whale shows in San Diego with displays that are focused on conservation. The park's "current orca experience" will end in 2016 and

the following year it plans to launch a new orca experience with a conservation theme in a more natural setting, said Joel Manby, chief executive officer, SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.

Last month, California regulators voted to bar SeaWorld San Diego from continuing to breed the killer whales, or orcas, if it moved ahead with a planned expansion of its arti-

ficial habitat. Animal rights activists, who are critical over the treatment of captive marine mammals and would like to see them returned to their natural habitat, hold demonstrations several

SeaWorld and Marineland.

SeaWorld has two other U.S. aquatic theme parks, one in Orlando. Fla., and San Antonio, Texas, but no announcement has been made about any changes to their orca

attractions. A statement released by Marine land said it has only have one killer whale, Kiska, and that the facility does not do any killer whale

Kiska, they add, lives in a two-pool complex, which is "the largest in the world housing a killer whale, multi-

ing killer whales at SeaWorld." Marineland said Kiska is "quite elderly and participates in a daily routine and schedule of feeding, tummy rubs and enrichment" and

that a dedicated staff of more than a dozen people care for her. She is fed a high-quality diet of

fish that is fit for human consumption and all of the water in her pools is filtered every three hours.

The statement adds Kista is quite old, but for her age she is healthy, active and continues to engage in age-appropriate activities.

Port hosting iunior A hockey showcase

InPort News staff

The Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's seventh annual College Showcase Classic will be held Tuesday, Dec. 15, in Port Col-

The one-day event, which is being hosted by the Niagara Whalers at Vale Health and Wellness Centre, will feature the top teams from the central, north and south divisions. three divisional select teams as well as the Whalers playing two games each.

Action takes place on both ice surfaces and college recruiters and professional scouts are expected to be in attendance. More than 20 schools and major

junior teams were registered at last year's showcase and more than 60 players were singled out and interviewed by college recruiters, the league said in a news release.

Niagara is at home Friday for an 8 p.m. game against the North York Renegades and visits the Toronto Attack in a 7:30 p.m. faceoff.

Last Sunday Whalers downed the visiting London Lakers 9.5 to span a four-game losing streak and wrap up the weekend with a 1-2 record. Alexandr Ivanov and Oskar Levin, with two goals each; Colton Anstev. David Christopher, Daniel Defranço and Harry Walker found the back of the net for Niagara which outshot London 48-33 to improve to 12-9-1 in the South Division.

The night before fourth-place Niagara gave up five upanswered goals and lost its fourth in a row despite outshooting the cellar dwellers of the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's South Division 48-30.

One-time Junior Canadians forward Mitch Reid, with a hat trick; and Defranco netted goals for the Whalers in Saturday night's game. Starter Steven Quinn, who gave up

three goals on 21 shots, and Braedan Turco, three goals on nine shots the rest of the way to be tagged with the loss, shared goaltending duties as Niagara lost for the second time in as many nights. Ivanov scored twice and Anstev

and Christopher also netted goals Friday night when the Whalers dropped a 9-4 decision to the Toronto Attack at Vale Health. Toronto outshot Niagara 36-32.

Turco, six goals on 26 shots; took the loss, and Austin Dero allowed three goals on 10 shots.



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LIVING WITH ILLNESS: 'I am not MS' says Sherry Carson

#### Still fighting after all these years

#### GRANT LAFLECHE

Postmedia Network Sherry Carson wants you to see her She wants you to look through the wheelchair, past the rasp in her voice. and beyond her motionless arms and

She wants you to see her — Sherry Carson

A mother of two. A wife. A businesswoman. A human person.
"I am not MS," she said, unable to

hold back tears. "I am not a disease, I am Sherry Carson, damn it. If all that is left of me is my thoughts and my words, then that is what I am going to use to live." Multiple sclerosis has been carving up

Carson's body, a piece at a time, for two decades

The disease has an unknown cause and is incurable. It attacks a substance called myelin, a protective coating over the nerves that is necessary for the transmission of nerve impulses.

When the damage to myelin is minor, those impulse can be slowed down. If the damage is serious, those messages cannot get through at all. \*So before MS, my brain would send a

message that would be like 'move your hand ... move your hand,' and I would move my hand,' Carson says.

"Now it is 'move your hand ... move your hand ... and nothing."

The first symptoms appeared 20 years ago after the birth of her first child. Her feet were oddly numb, something the doctors said was just the effect of the epidural injection she was given during

labour. The numbness didn't wear off.

Carson, living in Calgary at the time, said her condition deteriorated rapidly. The best explanation her doctors offered was nervous exhaustion. She was given Valium to calm her down. "It didn't help at all," she said.

"My husband would say to the doctors, 'This isn't a Valium problem. I'm watching my wife waste away before my

Finally, a Calgary neurologist identified the problem. It wasn't a painkiller given during childbirth. It wasn't anxiety. It was MS.

For some people struggling with a serious and strange illness, finally getting a clear diagnosis comes as a relief. Knowing the enemy can make it easy to

Not for Carson. With the diagnosis came the sobering reality that she wasn't going to get any better. The disease is progressive.

"I went from walking, to walking with a cane, to a walker, to a scooter, a manual wheelchair and now to an electric wheelchair," said Carson. For a time, she said, she very nearly

lost her voice along with her mobility. The nerve damage was so severe she had trouble breathing deeply. She could barely speak above a whisper.

"That is one of the things they taught me at the Hotel Dieu Shaver, how to breathe so I can talk better." Carson said of her time as a patient at the St.

Catharines rehab centre Her voice is strained, Raspy, But she can make herself heard

When MS seriously reduced Carson's mobility - making it impossible to continue working as a hairdresser — she, her husband Marty and their sons moved to

Fort Erie from Calgary. Marty, who sells software for a Calgary firm, is from Niagara and the lower

cost of living here allowed them to make ends meet "Calgary wages on a Fort Erie cost of

living goes a long way," she said Family, she said, is a key reason why she hasn't buckled under the weight of her illness

"It's not easy. Most couples, when one of them has MS, don't make it. Something like 90 per cent end in divorce," she

said "But Marty has been a rock. What kind of message would that send our sons if

be walked away? What kind of message would I send if I just gave up?" It's not that she doesn't have her moments. There are days when she cannot believe this is her reality

Each day, Carson is dependent on others. In the morning, a support worker comes to the house to help her get up, bathe, have breakfast and get ready for the day.

She will go out shopping or to appointments. A support worker returns in the evening to help with dinner. Marty can work from home and is there to help. "In that way, my world has become

very small," she said. While her body may not co-operate, her mind remains strong and Carson

said that is all she needs. When it become obvious MS would take her livelihood away, she decided

to start her own business selling sham-"As a hairdresser, I know shampoo, So I worked to create something unisex."

she said. "I knew that it would give me an income when I could no longer work as a hairdresser! She said the choice she faces every day

is a clear one; she can either let her circumstances roll over her, or she can get up from under them and roll on. "So I keep fighting this," she said, but

then pauses. "No, it's not a fight. I cannot fight the disease. What I can do is choose how I live, choose how I think. I think that everyone needs to do that

"If you let negative things in your mind, that can really do damage to you." When it comes time to have her photo taken for the newspaper, Carson asks her support worker if her hair and makeup

are still in place after all the tears during the interview "Honey, can I can cross my legs so I can sit like a girl?" Carson asks, and her support worker gently lifts Carson's right

leg and rests it over her left. Then she crosses her arms on her lap. Carson smiles. After two decades of living with MS, she is still here.

> grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca Twitter: Øgrantrants

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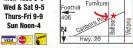
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COMMUNITY: Businesspeople, politicians strapping on the gloves for third Pearl Gloves event

# Boxing for a true fighter

#### GRANT LAFLECHE Postmedia Network

There are nights when it all seems insane to Mary Jane

Johnson. Her slender wrists are swollen. Her face is sore. Her entire body aches to the point where it's hard to sleep at night. Surely, there are easier things to do than boxing. A

spa day or safari, perhaps?

\*But then I think about what Sherry (Carson) goes through every day and then I think 'OK, what do I really have to complain about?' And I get up and doing it again the next day," said Johnson.

As executive director of the Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Foundation, Johnson is one of the fighters participating in this year's Pearl Gloves boxing gala, at the White Oaks resort in Niagara-on-the-Lake to benefit the MS Society Niagara's Chapter of Hope on Friday. A runner and swimmer, she

is no stranger to athletics.

**BOXING NIGHT** The third annual Pearl

Gloves boxing gala in support of the MS Society Niagara's Chapter of Hope When: Friday Where: White Oaks Resort, Niagara-on-the-

Lake, Doors open at 6 p.m. Boxing starts at 7:30 p.m. What: Local

businesspeople and noliticians have been training for months to compete in the white-collar boxing event to raise money for the local MS Society chanter

For more information, see the full fight card or donate, go to www pearlgloves.ca. The event is sold out, but you can still watch the show live on the website Friday.

But taking punches to the face wasn't something she was really keen on

consider being part of the fight team, she balked at the

suggestion. But that was before she met

Sherry Carson.

"Part of my job is to meet patients and tell their stories and show people what we do bere at the Hotel Dieu Shaver," Johnson said, "So one day, I was told I had to come meet this incredible woman who was being discharged."

Carson, who has lived with MS for 20 years, had an immediate impact on Johnson "She has had to deal with

so much, but has this very positive, courageous attitude and she refuses to give up," Johnson said. "It made me really want to do something, to really challenge myself. And the fact that she has MS made me want to do the Pearl Gloves, I wanted to fight for Sherry

The training at Irwin Boxing in Niagara Falls, under coach and Canadian boxing icon Rilly Irwin was well outside of Johnson's comfort zone.



Mary Jane Johnson trains with Terrance Fowler at FightFit in St. Catharines. Johnson decided to get into the ring as part of Pearl Gloves because of her connection to a person suffering with

her to push through the pain and bloody noses in preparing for her bout with Bayshore Group's Chiara Megna.

www.iustchristmas.ca

If Carson can cope with Johnson says. what MS has done to her body and stay positive, what are a few bruises or sore muscles.

grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @grantrants







































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# **LOCALNEWS**

BROADCAST

# Falls New Year's Eve show won't be televised

#### Postmedia Network

It's official: New Year's Eve won't be televised from Niagara Falls this year.

Global formally announced it is out as broadcaster for this year's concert. Christine Shipton, senior vice-president and chief creative officer for Global's parent company Shaw Media, confirmed the network won't carry the show for the first time in seven years \*Putting together a show

of this calibre requires significant resources, and unfortunately the economic model did not allow us to move forward with the event this year," she said in a statement, "We maintain a strong relationship with the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Parks Commission and look forward to promoting the upcoming celebration. "We wish them continued success with the annual New Year's Eve in Niagara Falls event."

This year's broadcast has been in limbo all year. Over the summer, Mayor Jim Diodati said negotiations were ongoing with the network, with talks focused on "who is going to pay for what" in the face of rising costs.



ET Canada's Cheryl Hickey and Rick Campinelli hosting the live portion of the 2011 New Year's Eve show at Queen Victoria

Last year's broadcast. headlined by country star Keith Urban, cost \$3 million to produce. The city secured about \$230,000 in grants for the show, to go with contributions from other tourism partners like Niagara Casinos (\$50,000) and Niagara Parks Commission (\$100,000)

entertainment website Pop Goes the News posted a story claiming the New Year's show was "scrapped" by Global/Shaw Media because of the high costs. Diodati disputed the story, saving talks with the network

hadn't stopped. Last year's show at Oueen In September, Canadian Victoria Park was the bigmore than 30% over the 2013 broadcast, About 4.2 mil-

lion viewers tuned in at mid-One tourism partner suggested Global wanted \$800,000 more to do the

show again this year. CTV was rumoured to be ready to step in this year, but Diodati said a deal couldn't

be worked out in time. "It's unfortunate," he said. "We really were working to put on a show, but the logistics didn't make sense for

"That was always the objective, to put a top drawer product on the national stage," he added, "But if we couldn't do that level, we didn't want to come in with something that would disappoint people."

Which doesn't mean there won't be a concert. Diodati said details of a scaled-back event will be announced soon,

likely with classic rock acts, Niagara Casinos spokesman Greg Medulun said stakeholders will meet next week to "iron out the details," but the city's two casinos remain committed to the event "with or without a broadcast this year."

New Year's show. Details will "It would make no sense to be announced early in 2016



Victoria Park that was headlined by Keith Urban in Niagara Falls on Dec. 31, 2014. Global recently announced it will not broadcast this year's show.

let an event with such widespread appeal simply fade away," he said. "The event's reputation is too big and too important to Niagara Falls, and frankly Canada, to keep off television for very long." Diodati promised this will be a one-year blip for the

about a "multi-year" agreement for a national broadcast show starting next year. "We had to take a step back in order to jump for ward," he said, adding the show will be as big as last year again. "It will be that and more."

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THE TRIBUNE



#### CENTURE DIVIER

OVER THE RIVER



Comedian Tracy Morgan is back at the Seneca Niagara Casino Feb. 26

#### Tracy Morgan plays Seneca Casino in Feb.

After a 2014 crash that nearly killed him, comedian Tracy Morgan will make his local return in February.

Morgan performs at Seneca Niagara Casino's Events Center Feb. 26, where he last performed in August 2013. Less than a year after that show, Morgan was a passenger in a Mercodes Sprinter bus that was struck from behind by a Walinart tractortraller on the New Jersey Turnpike. The crash killed Morgan's comedian friend, James McNair, and sent him to hospital with several Injuries. He was in a coma for two weeks.

During his extensive recovery, Morgan

hosted an episode of Saturday Night Live last month. Tickets for Morgan start at \$45, on sale now at SenecaCasinos.com and Ticketmas-

tec.com.

Also playing the Seneca's Bear's Den
Showroom in February will be Richard
Marx (Feb. 18), guitarist Jimmy Wolf (Feb.
4), family group The Cowsells (Feb. 5), Sandy
Hackert's Rat Pack (Feb. 27) and Eagles trib-

ute band Hotel California (Feb. 20).

Playing the larger Events Center will
be the Eli Young Band (Feb. 27) and The
Peking Acrobats (Feb. 12 and 13). Hickets for
all shows are available now.



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## Funnyman Crawford honoured for online talk show

#### Postmedia Network

After nine seasons as host of an online radio talk show, Joe Crawford has received some unexpected and welcome recognition for the work he has been doing.

Crawford was one of three people who were awarded Radio Personality of the Year Heritage Award by the Artists Music Guild, during a recent awards gala in North Caro-

"It was definitely a shock, that's for sure," Crawford said, who was also nominated for the Comedian of the Year

He said he took a picture with his cellphone when the nominees were displayed for the top comedian award. Although that award went to Jeff Steinburg, an accomplished comedian despite physical disabilities, Crawford

wasn't disappointed. For Crawford, being listed among the other nominees was more than enough. "A few categories go by, and

radio personality came up," he Crawford pulled out his cellphone to again take a picture of his name among the list of nominees

"I wasn't thinking anything of it. I was excited just to see my name and take a picture." he said. "Then they said, 'And the

winner is Joe Crawford." "I dropped my phone on the table. It literally dropped out of my hand," he said.

"I screamed. They joked around and said probably South Carolina heard me because I screamed so loud. I was in such a state of shock." He said he was overwhelmed with emotion.

"I was in total shock. I had no idea I was the winner." Crawford said. He said it was an honour just to be among other nom-

inees, many of whom were relatively famous like rhythm and blues singer Dee Dee Shorn Mortha Rooves from Martha and the Vandellas. and country singer Christy

"There were big celebrities that were there in their own categories," he said.

"It was a huge honour." Crawford said the awards show was video tapped to be broadcast on national televi-\*It will air after the Grammy

Awards in January," he said, adding that 32 million people are expected to be watch-Crawford hasn't let his

head. After announcing the award on social media websites, he said friends were treating him like a celebrity He said he told his friends:

new found attention go to his I've won an award." "It's gone to my head, but not really gone to my head." Crawford also shared the credit for receiving the award.

JOE CRAWFORD "It definitely looks good on "I'm just me still. I'm just loe a resume\* Crawford from Port Colborne. Crawford's talkshow is Nothing's changed except that broadcast Wednesday nights

He said he has worked with

on his website: www.joecrawfordlive.com. allan.benner@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @abenner1

a lot of people who helped

him arrange interviews with

"Because of them helping

me have celebrities on my

show, it's made the show that

much better. If it wasn't for

them I don't think I'd be able

to have that kind of recogni-

Nevertheless, winning the

award will undoubtedly help

holster his career he said

tion," he said.

celebrities for his talk show.

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### **Decking the halls with Darlene Love** songs for his classic 1963

#### Postmedia Network

By the time Darlene Love headlined her first tour of Canada two years ago, she was already in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Already a huge comeback story. Already considered one of the greatest pop singers of all time.

What took so long? Like everything else. Love didn't question it. Things happen when they're supposed to. In her case, they're happening in her 70s.

"It was my first (trip) as Darlene Love," she says. "I'd been there before when I backed up Dionne Warwick and Tom Jones, but not as Darlene Love

"I have a lot of fans over there, which I didn't know I had."

That pretty much sums up Love the past few years - an iconic singer finally getting

Playing Partridge Hall at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Nov. 28, Love's story is a huge part of the 2013 film 20 Feet from Stardom, which won the Academy Award for best documentary. The movie celebrated the contributions of backup singers, and their unrecognized part in classic recordings. Love knew the role well, singing backing vocals for groups including The Ronettes and The Crystals. Despite assurances from legendary producer Phil Spec-

tor that he'd make her a solo star, Love spent the '60s singing in the shadows. Soon after the movie won the Oscar, Love's scheduled

filled up. "We wanted everybody to see it, but mainly people who could get you to do shows for them," she says. "That did hap-

pen. That's probably why I'm as busy as I am right now. Love can be heard on iconic tracks including The Ronettes' Be My Baby and The Crystals' Da Doo Ron Ron. But it was an unlikely Christmas song which changed her life,

though it took decades to pay

album A Christmas Gift For You, he gave Love the task of singing the vibrant Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) because he didn't feel Ronnie Spector was up for the job. The song grew in stature over the years, to the point Love was hearing it on the radio while working as a housecleaner. That was her cue to reclaim a career which had stagnated through much of the '70s and

She sang backup (again) when U2 re-did the song for 1987's A Very Special Christmas, but it was a surprise invitation from David Letterman which truly changed her fortunes. In 1986, at the urging of Letterman's band leader Paul Shaffer, she sang it for the last

episode before Christmas break Letterman loved her co much, he made it an annual tradition The only year Love missed was 2007 due to a Writer's Guild strike. Her final performance last year was bit-



Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Darlene Love makes a festive visit to Niagara Saturday at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre.

tersweet - just weeks before. Letterman announced his final show would be in May of

"If it wasn't for me being on the David Letterman show year after year, people would not have really knew who Darlene Love was," she says, "That opened many doors for me.

"We always made my jobs around (New York) so I could do the Letterman show ... We weren't too far like London or

Even after 52 years, Love gets a charge out of singing the song, which is routinely chosen as one of the greatest Christmas tunes. Rolling Stone ranked it No. 1 in 2010,

Introducing Darlene Love is

her first album in eight years.

raying \*nobody can match Love's emotion and sheer vocal nower\* But Love has more to sing since her last Niagara visit. Plenty more. Released in September,

St St. Catharines WHEN: Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. TICKETS: \$62 www. firstontarionac ca boasting songs written by Elvis Costello, Bruce Spring-

WHO: Darlene Love

WHERE: Partridge Hall -FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St. Paul

steen, Joan Jett. It's produced by Springsteen's guitarist, Steven Van Zandt, a huge Love fan who gives it a vintage '60s barnos

"I've known these people, I've just never been involved with them," she says. "And they wanted to write for me, that was the great thing. We begged them to do it, and they said, 'Of course! What do you want?' A hit record!'

She's so busy, Love barely has time to ask 'why now? Whatever resentment she carried has been long buried.

"You can't dwell on it, that's the big thing," she says, "If you dwell on it, you stay there. I wanted to move on. I have a saying. That kind of stuff is too heavy a weight to carry. You have to shake it off, so I left all that back there.

john.law@sunmedia.ca

#### Construction of Underground Transmission Line Infrastructure Notice For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN LP

Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project") Project Name

Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario Project Location Notice Dated At Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 18th of November 2015.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), are engaging in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the

Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014. Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

- Concession Road 6:

- Shafley Road:

- Hwy 3; and

Construction of Underground Transmission Line Infrastructure

Installation of underground transmission line infrastructure is expected to begin on December 1, 2015, on the following roads: - Side Boad 42:

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Young Street; - South Grimsty Road 5: - Canborough Road - Creek Boad

- West Street/Hwy 20: Activities will include asphalt cutting and removal, trench excavation, conduit installation, concrete placement, vault installation, backfill, and compaction

- Wainfleet-Dunnville Townline Road.

and road remediation. These activities are described in detail in the REA technical reports found on the Project website: www.nrwf.ca. Construction activities are expected to last approximately 7 months. Please note that public services (i.e. mail delivery, garbage pick-up, school buses, etc.) may be disrupted during this time.

If you have any obstructions in the right-of-way near your property (e.g. fences, private gas lines, gardens, tiles, electrical lines), please contact Shiloh

Berriman (contact information below) Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

NIAGARA REGION WIND PROJECT CONTACT	GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION
Shiloh Berriman	General Number: 819-363-6491
Email: shiloh.berriman@enercon.de	Toll Free: 1-844-363-6491
Cell: 289-683-2563	Project email: info@nrwc.ca
	Project website: www.nrwf.ca.



# **LOCALNEWS**

MUSIC

# **Hell raisin' homecoming for Tim Hicks**

#### JOHN LAW Postmedia Network

Tim Hicks recalls sitting in class at A.N. Myer Secondary School in Niagara Falls, so tired from the night before the teacher had to crack a window open to keep him awake. The reason? He was in the

bars all night. He was barely 'As soon as I could grow a

goatee to look older," he says with a laugh. He wasn't up to trouble in fact, his mom let him quit his fast-food job to do it. These Niagara bars are where Tim

Hicks - future country music star - got bis start, hooking up with bands and playing cover song It wasn't glamorous. It

wasn't always easy. Especially when they found out he was underage. \*One of my first gigs was

at the Queenston Hotel in St. Catharines, and they made me stand on the sidewalk between sets," he recalls. "They clued in 'This guy isn't old enough to be here.' They didn't fire the band. They just said 'You've got to leave during the break.' So there I am standing outside in February freezing my buns off, waiting to go back in.

All part of the dues paid to get to Friday night, when Hicks plays a huge homecoming show at Scotiabank Convention Centre. It's the biggest show of his Get a Little Crazy tour, and he's going to make it seeing tweets from people I went to school with, my teachers, my neighbours, my kids' teachers, colleagues of my wife, my grandmother's going to be there ... the whole

"It's almost like my chance to show it off a little bit. Like, 'This is what we've been working on the last two years. everybody. Check it out. It's super exciting to bring it

Now 36, Hicks is on of the verge of superstardom in Canada with four top 10 hits on the country charts and eight Canadian Country Music Association nominations (winning in 2014 for rising star). But these past two years didn't happen overnight. Like virtually every Niagara musician, you either played cover songs or you didn't get work. Hicks embraced the gig, looking at 'art' and 'work' as two separate things. Before he could indulge his art, be had to put the work in. Sometimes by playing AC/DC in dingy

"We did originals, too. We'd ing what the gig was.

beer halls.

family has tickets.

slip them in, but they were terrible songs," he recalls, "But if you want to play in bars like that, you had to play covers. It was three 45-minute sets, or four 40 (minute sets), depend-

'It was long, but that's where I began cutting my

He was so entrenched. Hicks was still doing cover gigs after he started getting



HILLIE MOCRAK / POSTMEDIA METWORK Tim Hicks comes home for a date at Scotiabank Convention Centre on Friday

radio play. It resulted in a few surreal nights.

"My manager was begging me to cancel," he says, "I had decided I wasn't going to cancel on the people that had paid my mortgage for so many

all covers, then we'd come out "What happened was, peoguns a-blazin' with Get By and ple started to come to the show because they heard the Stronger Beer and all those song on the radio and were asking me to play my own stuff. We decided in the band to make the second set our tour set. The opening set was

songs. Don't I get hauled into the office by the very clubs I was loval to for all those "I was told 'You're not WHO: Tim Hicks, with guests Cold Creek County and Jason Benoit WHERE: Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls WHEN: Nov. 27. 8 p.m. TICKETS: \$49 www.

allowed to play your own songs here.' Songs that went on to be gold records in Can-

After winning male vocalist of the year at the 2011 Niagara Music Awards, Hicks' momentum has brought him out of the clubs and into theatres and small arenas. The Get a Little Crazy tour is a huge production, and it hit Hicks just before he played the first show Nov. 1, a sold-out date

in Sault Ste. Marie "It was especially great for me, because the last time I was in Sault Ste. Marie I was playing in the world's worst Neil Diamond tribute band. I felt like I got to redeem

myself\* He promises a few surprises for his homecoming show. "There's a couple of things

that are going to go on that we haven't had go on at the previous shows. We're bringing out a few special things for this one. Some extra production. I can't wait for people to see this show. I think we're going to shock a lot of people.

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7 to 9 p.m. - Presentation end Discussion

The proponent (Lakewood) is seeking approval of a Draft Pilan of Condaminium under section \$1 of the Planning Act, for 41 single-detached readents unter together with common element areas required for private internal racide, sets servicing infrastructure, walkway linkages and designated Foller's Toal Hebstat.

A Complete Application for Draft Plan of Condominium approval and Zening Bylaw Amendment was received by the Township of Wainfleet in November 2014. The Township of Wainfleet Official Plan epproved by the Onlerio Municipal Boerd on August 14, 2014, recognizes the proposed Latewood Beach Development, establishee the required land use designations and provides the

Concurrent with the Dank Reve of Condembrum registration. Notice was provided to be Transition of Variandese and the Interest of the Environment on Christic Clarge ACCCCC, that Water experience of Condembrum and Condembrum (Condembrum ACCCC) and Water project in accordance with nuclein A.5 of the Managing Clarke Environment (A.5 projects agreement experience accordance with nuclein A.5 of the Managing Clarke Environment Accessment (E.4, Clarke Condembrum ACCC) and the Condembrum ACCC and the Condembrum ACCC and the Managing Clarke Condembrum (Co.6 at 5). In this second of 3 managing points of public colors under the tripograph Managing Clarke Condembrum (Co.6 at 5). In this second of 3 managing points of public colors under the tripograph Managing Clarke Condembrum (Co.6 at 5).

- ed Draft Plan of Vacant Land Condominium Review of Alternative Solutions for Water and Westewater Servicing considered in Phase 2 of the Municipal Class EA process
- the Municipal Case is A process
  Public Input received in PIC # 1 which informs the Municipal Class EA process and the Draft
  Plan of Condominium
  Alternative Design Concepts for Water and Wastewater Servicing under evaluation in Phase 3 of the Municipal Class EA process

The purpose of PIC # 2 is for the public and any interested stakeholders to receive information and provide freedback on the proposed Dert Plan of Condominum ent releated Water and Wastewater Servicing Atternative Design Concepts under evaluation following the Integrated Municipal Class EA process. Public consultation and input is an integral part of both the Municipal Class EA and Planning Act processes, as the proponent works toward establishing sustainable Wester and Westewater Servicing for the Lakewood Beach Project.

#### This Notice issued on November 26, 2015

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Email: rpellerin@scoterra.com

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